

Appl. No.: 10/709,679
Amdt. Dated: 8/23/2005
Reply to Office action of: 07/26/2005

AMENDMENTSTOTHEDRAWINGS:

No amendments to the drawings are presented here with.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 2 remain in this application. Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection of the Examiner.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment submitted herewith.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 2 for using the phrase "the head" without proper antecedent basis. By this amendment Claim 2 has been amended to put this claim in proper form and remove the objected to language.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Market (5975939). Specifically, the Examiner states:

Market (Figures 1 – 10) shows a connector assembly security device having a screw 10, a hollow trunco-conical part 24 open at its two ends and a side opening on its wall intended for closing on the screw when the device is introduced by snapping into holes.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. A fair reading of Market (5975939) discloses a twist connector having a body (2) into which is inserted into a through bore from one end a threaded "wire nut" comprising a wire coil (10), and a hollow electrically conductive trunco-conical part (24) is inserted into the opposite bore opening in body (2). Thus, body (2) cannot operate like a housing closure because in order to lock the trunco-conical part (24) into the body (2) one must have access to the opposite surface of body (2) which is not possible in a closed housing. The invention of Market (5975939) requires 3 pieces to make a complete connector and also requires that the connector portions (10) and (24) be electrically conductive. Applicant's claimed invention on the other hand requires only 2 pieces and does not require that the connector assembly be electrically conductive. Furthermore, the requirement of the Market (5975939) invention of having access to both sides of the body (2) would make the invention unsuitable for the application to which Applicant's claimed invention is directed.

Clearly the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest a security device comprising a screw having a non-universal head slot and a trunco-conical part having two open ends and a fully expanded condition with slots to allow said trunco-conical part to be snapped into a hole having a diameter smaller than the fully expanded portion of said

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part as claimed in Applicant's application. When viewed in this light it is clear that the claimed invention is now ready for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Market (5975939) in view of Solarz et al. (4460298). Specifically, the Examiner states:

Market shows all the features of this claim except a non-universal slot on a head of the screw. Such a feature is common knowledge. Solarz (Figure 5) shows non-universal slots on the head of a screw 10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide a non-universal slot as shown by Solarz because this would provide security as well know and common knowledge.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. A fair reading of Market (5975939) as discussed above discloses a twist connector having a body (2) into which is inserted into a through bore from one end a threaded "wire nut" comprising a wire coil (10), and a hollow electrically conductive trunco-conical part (24) is inserted into the opposite bore opening in body (2). Thus, body (2) cannot operate like a housing closure because in order to lock the trunco-conical part (24) into the body (2) one must have access to the opposite surface of body (2) which is not possible in a closed housing. The invention of Market (5975939) requires 3 pieces to make a complete connector and also requires that the connector portions (10) and (24) be electrically conductive.

A fair reading of Solarz et al. (4460298) discloses a threaded plastic screw grommet (10) which has a threaded screw (16) that is introduced therein to lock the grommet (10) once it has been introduced into a panel bore. Said screw (16) does teach a non-universal slot. However, there is no manner in which the screw (16) of this reference can be used with the connector of the Market (5975939) reference. The use of the screw (16) of this reference in place of the threaded coil (10) of the Market (5975939) would render the Market (5975939) invention useless as one could no longer connect both ends of the invention of Market (5975939) to electrical connections. Furthermore, there is not the required impetus in either reference to teach or suggest how to modify the invention of the Market (5975939) with the invention of the Solarz et al. (4460298) reference to reach Applicant's claimed invention.

Clearly the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest a security device comprising a screw having a non-universal head slot and a trunco-conical part having two

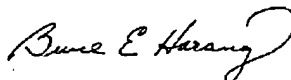
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open ends and a fully expanded condition with slots to allow said trunco-conical part to be snapped into a hole having a diameter smaller than the fully expanded portion of said part as claimed in Applicant's application. When viewed in this light it is clear that the claimed invention is now ready for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges the prior art made of record but not relied upon as a basis of rejection by the Examiner. Since these references were not used as a basis of rejection Applicant makes no further comment regarding these references.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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